

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10174 091352Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 NEA-11 AF-10 /092 W
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P 091349Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1475
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 1 652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS IN
SPOKANE

1. MOSCOW HAS REACTED ANGRILY TO THE PRESIDENT'S
COMMENTS ON SOVIET RACISM IN SPOKANE ON MAY 5- TASS WAS
ON THE WIRE IN LESS THAN 2 HOURS WITH A COMMENTARY DATE-
LINED WASHINGTON WHICH WAS CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S
COMMENTS BUT AVOIDED DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT. IT
STATED THAT THOSE WHO ACCUSE THE SOVIET UNION "VIRTUALLY
ACT AS INSTIGATORS OF THE AGGRESSORS IN AFRICA AND THE
MIDDLE EAST. THE TASS ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY ASKING THE
U.S. NOT TO MAKE UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS AT OTHERS, BUT TO
LOOK AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AT HOME, MENTIONING IN
PARTICULAR JOHN HARRIS AND THE WILMINGTON TEN.

2. PRAVDA OF MAY 9 CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY TASS OBSERVER
A. PETROV (PROBABLY A PSEUDONYM) WHICH IS MORE DIRECTLY
CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND ACCUSES THE U.S. OF BLOCKING
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE, EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THE HORN
OF AFRICA. PETROV WRITES THAT THE ATTEMPT BY THE PRESI-
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 10174 091352Z

DENT" TO ACCUSE THE SOVIET UNION IS A CRUDE TRICK," BUT
ATTRIBUTES THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO THOSE WHO PREPARED
THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH." CONCLUDING HIS DIATRIBE, PETROV
ASKS WHY THE PRESIDENT HAD TO DISTORT" SOVIET POLICY IN
AFRICA AND ANSWERS THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE U.S. TO DO
THIS TO JUSTIFY ITS OWN INCURSIONS INTO AFRICA AND ITS
EFFORTS TO SAVE THE RACIST REGIMES THERE. TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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